What is claimed is:

1. In an Internet compatible user interface system supporting a process including a sequence of subtasks, a method comprising the steps of:

initiating display of a composite window representing a plurality of overlaid tabbed web page windows each including a visible tab incorporating an identifier identifying a function provided by a web page associated with a particular subtask of said sequence of subtasks and wherein visible tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with said sequence of subtasks; and

initiating display of a subtask web page in the foreground of said composite window in response to user selection of a visible tab corresponding to said subtask web page.

2. A method according to claim 1, including the step of

initiating display of command menu items supporting at least one function of, (a) ordering tabbed web pages, (b) entering identifier data for incorporation in a visible tab, (c) providing a template tabbed web page sequence, and (d) assigning a tabbed web page sequence to particular web page universal resource locators (URLs).

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein

said Internet compatible user interface system comprises a web browser.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein

said sequence of subtasks comprises a workflow process including at least two functions from (a) browsing web pages, (b) searching for information, (c) configuring web page features, (d) providing capability to contact a human agent and (e) initiating a commercial transaction.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein

said sequence of subtasks comprises a workflow process supporting at least two functions from, (a) browsing for educational course offerings, (b) searching for information about a course of a selected course provider, (c) enrolling in an on-line educational course, (d) learning about a specific course curriculum, (e) accessing a selected course, (f) providing course practice exercises and (g) obtaining course credit.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein

said identifier comprises at least one of (a) text and (b) a symbol.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein

said visible tab is at least one of, (a) incorporated in a window used for displaying a retrieved web page and (b) embedded within said web page associated with a particular subtask of said sequence of subtasks.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein

said composite window supports a plurality of concurrently operating Internet based applications each corresponding to one of said plurality of overlaid tabbed web page windows.

9. A method according to claim 1, including the step of

sharing context information between subtasks corresponding to different overlaid tabbed web pages, said context information comprising at least one of, (a) user identification information, (b) user authorization information, and (c) commercial transaction related information.

10. A method according to claim 1, including the step of

in response to collated user preference data, adaptively re-ordering at least one of, (a) said overlaid tabbed web page windows and (b) functions provided by a web page associated with a particular subtask.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein,

a first subtask comprises a plurality of subsidiary subtasks, and including the step of

initiating display of a second composite window representing a second plurality of overlaid tabbed web page windows each including a visible tab incorporating an identifier identifying a function provided by a web page associated with a subsidiary subtask of said plurality of subsidiary subtasks in response to user selection of a visible tab associated with said first subtask.

12. A user interface system supporting management of a workflow including a sequence of subtasks, comprising:

a first menu for use in assigning individual subtasks of said sequence to corresponding hierarchically ordered tabbed web page windows; and

a composite window representing said overlaid tabbed web page windows each including a visible tab incorporating an identifier identifying a function provided by a web page associated with a particular subtask of said sequence of subtasks and wherein visible tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with said sequence of subtasks.

13. A user interface system according to claim 12, including

a second menu for use in entering identifier data for incorporation in a visible tab.

14. A user interface system according to claim 12, including

a second menu for use in allocating web page universal resource locators (URLs) to corresponding windows of said overlaid tabbed web page windows.

15. A user interface system according to claim 12, wherein said user interface system comprises a web browser.

16. In an Internet compatible user interface system supporting a process including a sequence of subtasks, a method comprising the steps of:

initiating display of a composite window representing a plurality of overlaid tabbed web page windows each including a visible tab incorporating an identifier identifying a function provided by a web page associated with a particular subtask of said sequence of subtasks and wherein visible tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with said sequence of subtasks; and

sharing context information between subtasks corresponding to different overlaid tabbed web pages.

17. A user interface system according to claim 16, wherein said context information comprises at least one of, (a) user identification information, (b) user authorization information, and (c) commercial transaction related information.

18. A user interface system according to claim 16, wherein

said composite window supports a plurality of concurrently operating Internet based applications each corresponding to one of said plurality of overlaid tabbed web page windows, and

5   said context information is shared between said concurrent applications.

19. In an Internet compatible user interface system supporting a process including a sequence of subtasks, a method comprising the steps of:

10   initiating display of a menu for use in decomposing a process into a sequence of individual subtasks corresponding to hierarchically ordered tabbed web page windows; and

initiating display of a composite window representing a plurality of overlaid tabbed web page windows each including a visible tab incorporating an

15 identifier identifying a function provided by a web page associated with a particular subtask of said sequence of subtasks and wherein visible tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with said sequence of subtasks.

20 20. A user interface system according to claim 19, wherein

said step of initiating display of a menu for use in decomposing a process into a sequence of individual subtasks comprises initiating generation of a menu for partitioning subtasks into two or more functions selected from (a) browsing web pages, (b) searching for information, (c) configuring web page features, (d)

25 providing capability to contact a human agent and (e) initiating a commercial transaction.

21. In a user interface system supporting a process including a sequence of subtasks, a method comprising the steps of:

initiating display of a composite window representing a plurality of overlaid tabbed application windows each including a visible tab incorporating an

5   identifier identifying a function provided by an application associated with a particular subtask of said sequence of subtasks and wherein visible tabs and corresponding overlaid tabbed windows are sequentially ordered in accordance with said sequence of subtasks; and

initiating display of a subtask application window in the foreground of

10   said composite window in response to user selection of a visible tab corresponding to said subtask application.